

Draft

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION

December 18, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held on December 18, 2007 at 4:00pm at the Recreation Main Office, with the following members present: Ms. Driehaus, Ms. Ingram, and Ms. Brewer and Messrs. Fultz, Smith and Moeddel, with Ms. Driehaus presiding. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Lang, Barnes, Cox, Simmons, Kerr, and Yemaya and Messrs. Merrifield, Bigham, Koopman, LeConey, Carlisle, and Celsor.

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PRESENTATION TO COMMISSION

Kelly Kerr and a group of children from the Millvale Recreation Center presented their version of *The Night Before Christmas* story and then presented the Commissioners, Dr. Merrifield, and Ms. Schoenig with Christmas cards that were made by participants at various centers. Commissioners thanked the children and wished them Happy Holidays.

At this time Ms. Kerr presented the program highlight for the West Region. Ms. Kerr informed that the 5 & 6 year old football team at the center won their Division this past year. Two team members were present to show the Commission Members the trophy that the team won.

The boxing program at Millvale is going strong. A video of participants in the program was shown while Ms. Kerr explained the program and introduced Mr. Buddy LaRosa to the Commission. Mr. LaRosa is very involved with the boxing program and always steps to the plate when there is a need. Mr. LaRosa stated that safety is of the utmost importance to the program. Mr. LaRosa was awarded a plaque in appreciation of this many contributions to the boxing program and everything else he does for Recreation. Members of the boxing program were present and displayed the belts they have won.

RECOGNITION OF TINISHA BREWER

Youth Commissioner, Tinisha Brewer, has completed her year of service on the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Ms. Driehaus presented Ms. Brewer with a plaque and a shirt and thanked her for her service to the Commission.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

Kathy Lang, Peggy Steins, Jeff Jordon, Doyle Spradlin, and Dale Doerman were present at the meeting in recognition of their retirement. Ms. Driehaus presented each of them with a plaque honoring their retirement and thanked each of them for their years of service to CRC and the City of Cincinnati.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH SPORTS AWARD

CRC was presented with an award from the National Alliance for Youth Sports at the International Youth Sports Congress for our chapter's dedication to improving youth sports in the community. Kathy Lang was unable to attend the Congress to accept the award so it was sent to her along with a letter of thanks. Ms. Driehaus thanked Ms. Lang for her dedication to youth sports.

MINUTES

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Rev. Smith, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting as submitted.

Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence presented at this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aquatic Plan Power Point Presentation

Jeff Koopman presented the Aquatic Plan Power Point Presentation. He advised that most of our facilities were built in the 1970's, some in the 1930's. The 2006 budget discussions centered on closing 13 pools and 4 centers. The basis for the Aquatic Plan was to retain some aquatic experiences in all of our neighborhoods. The aquatic plan provides for each region to be served by a deep water pool and a sprayground. Ms. Driehaus stated that we realize we are not going to get any more money in our budget. She explained that we are taking an approach to find out how we can save money and still provide the

services communities want. Spraygrounds are cheaper and can be operated longer. They are very popular and well attended in surrounding areas.

There were a number of citizens present, many of whom wanted to speak to the Commission regarding the Washington Park Pool. Speaker Request Cards were completed before the meeting and given to Ms. Driehaus. Ms. Driehaus called on speakers in the order in which their request cards were received. Speaking time was limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

The following citizens filled out Speaker Request Cards and spoke to the Commission on behalf of keeping the Washington Park Pool open: Brian Korn, Mike Moroski, Tim Kraus, Bonnie Neumeier, J. Tyler Friedman, Josh Spring, Bill Haigh, Joseph Albertz, Eva D'Intino, Steve DeMar, Pamela J. Adams, Pat Clifford, Mary Burke, Mike Stehlin, and Catherine Comello Stehlin. One other person came in late and asked to speak. Her name was not recorded.

The following points were made by the speakers on behalf of keeping the pool open:

- It encourages family time together
- Helps to keep participants healthy
- It is a way to stay cool
- Easy place for parents to keep an eye on their kids
- Something for people to do in their own neighborhood
- Sends a positive message
- Kids in area don't have access to other pools
- Important for kids to learn to swim
- CRC should fight for funding to keep the pool open
- What kind of message is it sending to close both of their pools and their school? More thought should be given to the plan.
- Spraygrounds are said to be less expensive to operate and can be operated when guards are not on duty. What do you do if someone gets hurt on the sprayground?
- Kids will miss opportunity to be on swim teams
- Good for families
- Speakers will support CRC in obtaining funds

- There are health problems at spraygrounds
- Spraygrounds will be as much expense as taking care of a pool
- Users must shower before entering spraygrounds – there are numerous lawsuits

Ms. Driehaus stated that we do not want to close pools; we just don't have the money to keep them all open and maintained. She thanked everyone for coming and advised that the Commission would be getting back in touch with them. Rev. Smith stated that some really good arguments were made. Mr. Moeddel said that it was great to hear from everyone and that the Commission appreciates their thoughts and comments. Ms. Ingram advised that she understands the community's view. She further stated that she is also concerned about the safety issue.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Fees for the Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatic Facility at Dunham

Doug Carlisle reviewed the fee schedule with Commission. The cost of running the new Dunham Aquatic Facility will be \$110,000.00 annually. Closing Bold Face, Oskamp, and Rapid Run pools saved \$50,000.00 leaving a shortage of \$60,000.00. The hours for the facility are expanded because it is a regional site. Mr. Bigham explained that we did not get any money from Council to run this facility. Staff has tried to figure out what we have to charge to cover the expense of have the facility open longer hours. Dr. Merrifield stated that this is a revenue-driven facility. With the number staff we are going to need to operate the facility, the facility being open longer hours for a longer season, we have to charge more. Mr. Moeddel stated that he would like to have the operating cost for the facility available at the next meeting.

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the 2008 Fees for the Otto Armleder Memorial Regional Aquatic Facility at Dunham as submitted. Ms. Driehaus abstained.

Motion passed.

Budget Update

Mr. Bigham provided Commission with the Budget Update through November 30, 2007 – Appropriated Funds and reviewed same with them. Mr.

Bigham advised that the 2008 Budget is on the City Council calendar for passage tomorrow.

2008 Commission Meeting Dates

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the 2008 Commission Meeting Dates as submitted. This schedule will be forwarded to the Clerk of Council for posting in the City Bulletin

Motion passed.

Field Trips

Mr. Fultz moved, seconded by Mr. Moeddel, to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Motion passed.

Oakley Recreation Area Master Plan

The Oakley Recreation Area Master Plan was tabled until the January 15th, 2008 meeting.

COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 15th, 2008 at 4:00pm at the LeBlond Community Center, 2335 Eastern Avenue (02).

Meeting Adjourned.

Denise M. Driehaus, President

Norman C. Merrifield, Ed. D., Director

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